

Implementing the Partnership Agreement and The KY Plan Status of Equal Educational Opportunity Programs

The Council on Postsecondary Education supports statewide programs that provide relevant, high-quality activities to assist institutions with increasing recruitment, enrollment, retention, and graduation initiatives for Kentucky resident African Americans. The institutions are strongly encouraged to utilize the programs to support strategies outlined in the *Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities* as well as the Partnership Agreement with the Office for Civil Rights. Many students have participated in and benefited from the programs since the adoption of the statewide higher education desegregation plan in 1982. A summary of the program activities is provided below.

The Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program

The goal of the GMSCPP is to increase the number of prepared underrepresented minority high school graduates who enroll in a Kentucky postsecondary institution. Program directors were asked to report on the effectiveness of their program and how well it addressed the statewide goals and objectives. Reports were received from seven institutions, Henderson Community College, Hopkinsville Community College, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System that identified specific strategies to meet the statewide goals and objectives of the GMSCPP. Only one institution, Eastern Kentucky University, failed to submit a report.

Funds for the 2001-02 program year will not be released to the institutions until after their reports are complete and evaluations are finished. Reports were evaluated on how well they addressed the statewide goals and objectives.

- Commitment to build and strengthen partnerships between educational institutions across Kentucky to create an educational pipeline that promotes postsecondary education.
- Commitment to offer assistance to underrepresented minority groups in their transition from middle to high school and from high school to college.
- Commitment to develop workshops for underrepresented minority groups that focus on college selection, admission procedures, preparing for the college entrance exam, and financial aid.
- Commitment to enhance underrepresented minority groups' knowledge of computers and other technological developments that will be beneficial to their postsecondary educational career.

- Commitment to assist underrepresented minority groups in strengthening their educational skills by providing programs and activities in the following areas: communication and listening, cultural awareness, library research, English, math, reading, science, self-esteem, and leadership.
- Commitment to encourage parental involvement in preparing students to enter postsecondary education by including parents in programs and workshops developed for their children.
- Commitment to provide mentors and to support networks for underrepresented minority groups through community and social service to encourage them to persist through college, as well as to develop a sense of responsibility and respect for their communities.
- Commitment to introduce underrepresented minority groups to the idea of pursuing graduate and professional degrees with the goal of increasing minority graduate/professional enrollment as well as graduate/professional degrees earned in Kentucky institutions.

Results of the GMSCPP evaluations reveal that more than 900 minority students participated in the programs across the Commonwealth in FY 2000-01. The programs offered comparable academic enrichment activities which included: developing and strengthening reading skills, research, math, science, introduction to computer technology, African American History and Culture, leadership building skills, and introduction to the collegiate experience. Several institutions offered student participants an opportunity to experience campus life firsthand through a weeklong residential program. Each program also included a parent/guardian workshop to encourage and increase participation to prepare students to enter postsecondary education.

It was evident that several programs collaborated to exchange ideas and offer comparable academic enrichment programs. Several of the KCTCS programs and two universities created a partnership with neighboring institutions which allowed program participants to interact with individuals from a variety of areas across the Commonwealth. Some institutions indicated that financial constraints severely limited their ability to travel to locations that were not in close proximity. Those institutions did not specify alternative measures that could have been taken such as interactive TV or telephone.

Many of the reports emphasized collaborative activities or included plans that were underway to interface with three statewide programs to assist students transitioning from middle to high school and from high school to college: GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), TRIO (educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds and to serve and assist low-income, first-generation college, and disabled students to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postsecondary education), and UPWARD BOUND (a TRIO program that serves high school students from low-income families, from families in which neither parent holds a bachelors degree, and low-income, first-generation military veterans preparing to enter postsecondary education). Workshops were also offered to assist students with college selection, admission procedures, financial aid, and preparation for college entrance exams.

Nine programs receive recurring grants. Three programs, which were added in the 2000-01 academic year, at Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, and the KCTCS received non-recurring funds. Funds to support the new programs will be requested as part of the council's 2002-04 budget recommendation.

The Louisville Defender Minority Expo

The 64th annual Minority Consumer Expo will be held November 9-11, 2001, in Louisville at the Kentucky International Convention Center. This year's theme is: "Making Every Choice Count." The council will furnish booth space for all public postsecondary institutions to offer a platform to showcase their "best practices" and to answer questions from students, parents, and guardians. All of the universities, the KYVU, and the KCTCS have committed to participate in this event.

The Governor's Diversity Day

The council participates in this event although it is not a postsecondary education program. The Governor's Diversity Day is Wednesday, November 14, 2001, at the Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center in Frankfort. The conference is a forum to promote diversity and multiculturalism in health, education, and industry. The state's Personnel Cabinet coordinates the conference. The institutions will be contacted by council staff to determine their interest in participating.

Statewide Gear Up Grant

GEAR UP Kentucky (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) will host an Expo November 15, 2001, from 11:30 to 4:00 at the University of Kentucky's Memorial Coliseum for approximately 8,000 seventh and eighth grade students from across the Commonwealth. Students will be exposed to various careers, academic skills, and educational requirements to encourage them to match their interests to specific degree programs. Representatives from every postsecondary institution in the state will also be available to discuss the benefits of higher education.

Staff preparation by Rana Johnson